



ROBUST CONTINUES AS THE LEADER IN MINNESOTA

Robust is the leading planted barley variety in Minnesota for the eighth consecutive year, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. At 49.1 percent of barley acres planted, Robust has its smallest share of Minnesota's planted barley acreage since 1997. A strong showing from Lacey, especially in the Northwest District, has been a chief contributor to Robust's decline in dominance. Total planted barley acreage in Minnesota for 2005 is estimated at 120,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last year. The Northwest District contains the largest portion of State barley acreage at 62.5 percent (75,000 acres), followed by the Central District at 13.5 percent (16,200 acres), the West Central District at 9 percent (10,700 acres) and the Southeast District at 7 percent (8,200 acres). The remaining five districts have 9,900 acres of barley, or 8 percent of the total acreage.

Robust, a six-rowed malting variety with medium yield, maturity and lodging resistance and good kernel plumpness, is planted on 58,900 acres and accounts for 49 percent of the State's planted barley acres. This is nearly four percentage points lower than last year. In the Northwest District, Robust was planted on 33,600 acres, or 45 percent of the district barley acreage. The Central District had 10,700 acres of Robust, which is 66 percent of the district acreage. The West Central District had 6,400 acres, or 60 percent of the district acreage and the Southeast District had 4,000 acres, or 49 percent of the district acreage. The remaining five districts have 4,200 acres of Robust, representing 42 percent of their combined acreage.

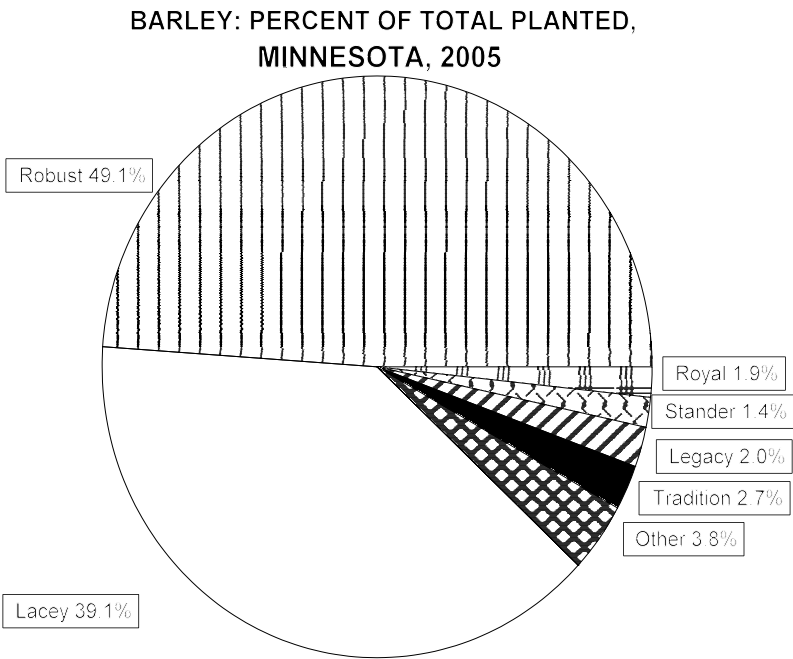
Lacey, another six-rowed malting variety with high yield and good lodging resistance and kernel plumpness, is planted on 39 percent of the total acres, up over a percentage point from last year. This corresponds to 46,900 statewide acres for 2005. Lacey led all varieties in acreage planted in the Northwest District with 35,100 acres, or 47 percent of the district total. The West Central District had 3,900 acres and the Central District had 3,000 acres planted, 36 and 19 percent of the district acreage, respectively. The remaining districts totaled 4,900 acres, which is 27 percent of their combined acreage.

Tradition and Legacy came in a distant third and fourth with 3,200 acres and 2,400 acres planted, respectively. Tradition is a six-rowed malting variety with high yield and medium maturity, lodging resistance and kernel plumpness and was planted on 2.7 percent of the State's barley acreage. Legacy is a six-rowed malting variety with high yield and medium-late maturity and was planted on 2.0 percent of the State's barley acreage. Tradition was almost exclusively planted in the Northwest District with 3,200 acres and 4.3 percent of the district acreage. Legacy was most commonly planted in the Northwest District with 1,800 acres or 2.4 percent of the district acreage.

Feed varieties accumulating more than one percent of total barley plantings were Royal and Stander. Royal is six-rowed variety with excellent forage quality and was planted on 2,300 acres or 1.9 percent of the State barley acreage. Stander is a six-rowed variety with high yield, late maturity and very good lodging resistance with 1,700 acres planted in Minnesota or 1.4 percent of the combined State acreage.

The remaining 3.8 percent or 4,600 acres of State barley acreage is attributed to other varieties including Conlon, Drummond, Excel, Foster, Gamine, Haybet, Hazen, Kewaunee, Morex, MNBrite, Stark, and Westford. The American Malting Barley Association, Inc. (AMBA) has recommended Conlon, Drummond, Excel, Foster, Lacey, Legacy, Morex, Robust and Tradition as malting barley varieties for planting in this region for 2005. Those remaining are feed varieties.

Barley varietal information provided by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Minnesota. Partial funding for this variety survey was provided by the American Malting Barley Association, Inc.



Note: Other includes varieties with less than one percent of the State barley acreage.

BARLEY: PERCENT SEEDED,  
MINNESOTA, 2001-2005

| Variety   | Percent of State Total |       |       |       |       | 2005 Acres Planted |
|-----------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|
|           | 2001                   | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  |                    |
|           | Percent                |       |       |       |       |                    |
| Conlon    | 1/                     | 1/    | 2.0   | 1/    | 1/    | 1/                 |
| Excel     | 1/                     | 1.8   | 2.2   | 1.2   | 1/    | 1/                 |
| Lacey     | 9.6                    | 29.1  | 32.3  | 37.8  | 39.1  | 46,900             |
| Legacy    | 1/                     | 2.1   | 1.3   | 1.4   | 2.0   | 2,400              |
| Robust    | 74.4                   | 56.7  | 57.3  | 52.8  | 49.1  | 58,900             |
| Royal     | 2.0                    | 2.8   | 1.5   | 2.7   | 1.9   | 2,300              |
| Stander   | 7.4                    | 3.2   | 1.5   | 1/    | 1.4   | 1,700              |
| Tradition | 1/                     | 1/    | 1/    | 1/    | 2.7   | 3,200              |
| Other     | 6.6                    | 4.3   | 1.9   | 4.2   | 3.8   | 4,600              |
| STATE     | 100.0                  | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 120,000            |

Minnesota's  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Districts

1/ Less than one percent, included in Other.  
Note: Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding.

| BARLEY: PERCENT AND ACREAGE SEEDED, BY DISTRICT, MINNESOTA, 2005 |           |              |         |           |                 |         |
|--|-----------|--------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|---------|
| Variety  | Northwest | West Central | Central | Southeast | Other Districts | State   |
|  | Percent   |              |         |           |                 |         |
| Lacey  | 46.8      | 36.4         | 18.5    | 18.3      | 34.3            | 39.1    |
| Legacy   | 2.4       | 1.9          | 1.2     | 1/        | 2.0             | 2.0     |
| Robust   | 44.8      | 59.8         | 66.0    | 48.8      | 42.4            | 49.1    |
| Royal  | 1/        | 1/           | 4.9     | 15.9      | 2.0             | 1.9     |
| Stander  | 1/        | 1/           | 3.1     | 4.9       | 8.1             | 1.4     |
| Tradition  | 4.3       | 1/           | 1/      | 1/        | 1/              | 2.7     |
| Other  | 1.7       | 1.9          | 6.2     | 12.2      | 11.1            | 3.8     |
|  | Acres     |              |         |           |                 |         |
| Lacey  | 35,100    | 3,900        | 3,000   | 1,500     | 3,400           | 46,900  |
| Legacy   | 1,800     | 200          | 200     | 1/        | 200             | 2,400   |
| Robust   | 33,600    | 6,400        | 10,700  | 4,000     | 4,200           | 58,900  |
| Royal  | 1/        | 1/           | 800     | 1,300     | 200             | 2,300   |
| Stander  | 1/        | 1/           | 500     | 400       | 800             | 1,700   |
| Tradition  | 3,200     | 1/           | 1/      | 1/        | 1/              | 3,200   |
| Other  | 1,300     | 200          | 1,000   | 1,000     | 1,100           | 4,600   |
| TOTAL  | 75,000    | 10,700       | 16,200  | 8,200     | 9,900           | 120,000 |

1/ Varieties with less than 0.5 percent of district total are included in Other.  
Note: Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding.